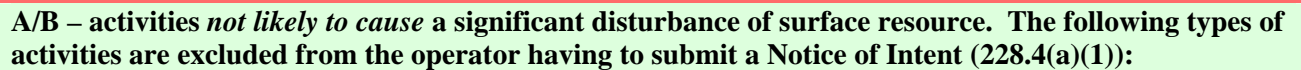


Summary of regulations at 228.4(a): The District Ranger's authority to regulate mining activities is triggered by the degree of surface disturbance associated with proposed or ongoing mineral activities.



- B/C – activities that *might cause* significant disturbance of surface resources (228.4(a)):**

- C/D – activities that *will likely cause or are causing* significant disturbance of surface resources requires the submission of a proposed plan of operations (228.4(a)(3) and (4)):**

- The phrase “*will likely cause significant disturbance of surface resources*” means that, based on past experience, direct evidence, or sound scientific projection, the District Ranger reasonably expects that the proposed operations would result in impacts which more probably than not need to be avoided or ameliorated by means such as reclamation, bonding, timing restrictions, and other measures to minimize adverse environmental impacts to NFS resources.***



Notice of Intent Instructions

36 CFR 228.4(a) - Locatable Minerals

If you have a question about the NOI process or mining regulations, contact the Forest Service office that administers the lands involved with your proposed mining operation.

The purpose of submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) for a proposed mining operation is to provide the Forest Service District Ranger with sufficient information to determine if the level of proposed disturbance will require a Plan of Operations and a detailed environmental analysis. The District Ranger will, within 15 days of receipt of the NOI, evaluate the NOI and notify the operator whether or not a Plan of Operations is required.

A NOI is required from any person proposing to conduct operations which might cause a significant disturbance of surface resources. If you are uncertain whether your operation falls within this category, we recommend you file a NOI. It can be included as part of a letter to the District Ranger and should address the five items listed below.

1. **The name, address, and telephone number of the operator.** The NOI should be signed and dated by the operator.
2. **The area involved.** The description should include the township, range, and ¼ section of where your proposal will occur and with enough detail to locate the area on the ground. We recommend you enclose a map of suitable scale (U.S. Geological Survey map scale 1: 24,000) with your NOI and indicate on the map where your operations would be located on the ground.
3. **The nature of the proposed operations.** Describe what you plan to do. Include when and how you will be operating, the proposed start-up date, and the expected duration of the activities. List other details such as the number of people involved in the operation, equipment you intend to use (sizes, capacity, frequency of use), depth of proposed suction dredging or excavation, how waste material will be handled, what vegetation will be removed, the size of area to be disturbed, quantity of material to be removed, housing or camping facilities to be used, and the method for sewage and waste disposal.
4. **The route of access to the area of operations.** Describe the route of access or display it on your enclosed map, and identify individual roads and trails you intend to use.
5. **The method of transport.** Describe the vehicles or other transport used to carry people, equipment, supplies, and living quarters to and from the work site. Describe if transport will be by foot, stock (horses, mules, etc.), trucks, helicopters, motorcycles, cars, etc.